

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 have been examined. Claims 1-5, 13-16, 20 and 21 have been rejected on prior art grounds and claims 6-12 and 17-19 have been objected to as being in improper form. By this Amendment, Applicant is adding new claims 22-28 and canceling claims 5, 11, 13, 15, 16, and 21 without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, 14, 17-20 and 22-28 will be pending in the application.

I. Formal Matters

Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing and returning the PTO SB/08 Forms submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements of September 19, 2005 and December 16, 2005, indicating that the documents cited therein have been considered. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the foreign priority claim and receipt of the priority document. However, the Examiner has not indicated acceptance of the drawings filed on September 19, 2005. The Examiner also has not initialed and returned the PTO SB/08 Forms submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements of April 28, 2006 and June 11, 2007. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner initial and return such PTO SB/08 Forms and indicate acceptance of the drawings in the next PTO communication.

II. Claim Objections

Claims 6-12 and 17-19 have been objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim shall not serve as a basis for any other multiple dependent claim. Applicant has amended the claims in a manner believed to overcome the objection.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,991,325 to Oda et al. (“Oda”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,536,885 to Kuribayashi et al. (“Kuribayashi”)

Claims 1-5, 13-16 and 20-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Oda in view of Kuribayashi.

A. Claim 1

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. For example, claim recites, *inter alia*, “a sub-tank member mounted on the carriage, having a plurality of liquid-room openings that are respectively communicated with the plurality of head-liquid-supplying ports of the liquid ejecting head, wherein the plurality of liquid-room openings are closed by a common film member in order to form liquid storage rooms[.]”

On the other hand, Oda merely teaches that the number of sub ink tanks 30 corresponds to the number of the recording head 28, there are four sub ink tanks in the embodiment. *See* Oda at Figures 1 and 2, col. 6, lines 9-24. Each sub ink tank is then inserted into the recording head unit 32. *See* Oda at Figures 1 and 2, col. 6, lines 15-24. Oda fails to teach or suggest the claimed feature of “a sub-tank member mounted on the carriage, having a plurality of liquid-room openings...wherein the plurality of liquid-room openings are closed by a common film member in order to form liquid storage rooms[.]”

Further, Kuribayashi merely teaches that ink case 218 has four ink chambers 218a formed inside depending on the colors of inks used for printing. Each of the ink chambers 218a has an ink bag 218d, from which ink is supplied by connecting an ink supply tube 218c to one end of the ink bag 218d, and connecting the other end of the ink supply tube 218c to the correspond

joint valve 221. *See* Kuribayashi at Figure 7; col. 15, line 62 to col. 16, line 11. In other words, Kuribayashi teaches that each ink bag 218a is connected to a separate ink supply tube 218c. However, Kuribayashi fails to teach or suggest the claimed “plurality of liquid-room openings are closed by a common film member in order to form liquid storage rooms[.]”

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references for at least the foregoing reasons.

B. Claims 2-21

Since claims 5, 11, 13, 15, 16, and 21 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant submits that the rejection of such claims is now moot. Since claims 2-4, 6-10, 12, 14, and 17-19 are dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable over the cited references at least by virtue of their dependency. Since claim 20 contains features that are similar to the features discussed above in conjunction with claim 1, Applicants submit that it is patentable for at least similar reasons.

IV. Newly Added Claims

Applicant has added new claims 22-28. Since claim 22-25 and 27-28 contain features that are similar to the features discussed above in conjunction with claim 1, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable for at least similar reasons. Since claim 26 is dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that it is patentable over the cited references at least by virtue of its dependency.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/Kelly G. Hyndman 39,234/
Kelly G. Hyndman
Registration No. 39,234

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: October 16, 2007